GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2037
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2000
PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS
KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the concession announced for procurement of foodgrains from Punjab for the Central Pool;

(b) whether such concessions are likely to be extended to other States like Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal in view of plight of farmers;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a) The following concessions have been extended in Punjab for procurement of paddy during Kharif Marketing Season 2000-2001.

(i) The procurement of paddy has been permitted with damaged, discoloured, sprouted and weevilled grains up to a maximum limit of 8% instead of 3% provided under the uniform (FAQ) specification;

(ii) Paddy conforming to the above specification will be procured at the Minimum Support Price (MSP);

(iii) Out turn ratio for custom milling of such relaxed paddy will be 64% for raw and 65% for parboiled rice;

(iv) It will be State Government`s responsibility to get the paddy milled and deliver rice strictly conforming to the uniform specifications well within the current Kharif Marketing Season; and

(v) It has also been agreed that the farmers of Punjab, whose paddy had been purchased at a price below MSP, the State Government would make good the difference. The total expenditure arising out of this differential shall be restricted to a maximum of Rs.100 crores. The Ministry of Finance shall compensate to the Government of Punjab for this expenditure to an extent of 50%.

(b), (c) & (d) : Relaxations in paddy specifications were extended to Punjab in order to enable the agencies to procure paddy, which was affected due to unseasonal rains and blight disease, at MSP, so as to reduce the hardship of farmers. In case of Andhra Pradesh, unlike Punjab, paddy is not procured by FCI, and rice through levy route only is procured.In West Bengal, the State Government procures rice under decentralized procurement and no such unseasonal rains or severe disease affecting the paddy crop has been reported.